

Surf Pines Breeze

Newsletter of the Surf Pines Association

April 2010 Vol. XVI, No. 3

Tsunami: Are You Ready?



by Lee Casaleggio

Tsunami is a set of ocean waves caused by any large, abrupt disturbance of the sea-surface. The most frequent causes of these disturbances are underwater earthquakes. Tsunami is a Japanese word, represented by two characters: tsu, meaning, "harbor", and nami meaning, "wave". A major tsunami can be expected if the earthquake's magnitude is 7.0 or greater on the Richter scale and the earthquake occurs less than two miles below the earth's surface. The distance of the earthquake from the coastline will determine how much time it will take the waves to reach the coast. If the disturbance is close to the coastline, local tsunamis can demolish coastal communities within minutes. A very large disturbance can cause local devastation and export tsunami destruction thousands of miles away. Currently, tsunamis cannot be predicted. After a disturbance, the tsunami's path, speed, and potential results can be described. Because a tsunami is a natural disaster, you may think that there is little that you can do. Please think again and consider the following:



Get Registered. Clatsop County operates an Emergency Notification System (ENS). ENS is an automated "reverse 9-1-1" system that can dial all listed land line telephones in the County with information and directions if there is an emergency (tsunami, storm, fire, or other disaster). You can register another land line, a cell phone, Personal Data Assistant (PDA such as a BlackBerry), fax machine, or other communication device with the County. On the internet, the address is: www.surfsimple.net/cert/clatsop_or/. ENS may be your only official notification of an emergency.

Get Informed. Information is power and can help guide your personal preparations. Start locally. On the Clatsop County website: www.co.clatsop.or.us under the Quick Links index on the left, click on Public Safety. On the Public Safety site, scroll down to the last item Emergency Management Division. The County has excellent information about tsunami preparedness and response in our area. The site also includes a link to ENS to register your personal numbers. Both the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have valuable information to support your planning and actions. Check out the NOAA site www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) transmitters broadcast on one of seven VHF frequencies. In Astoria the frequency is 162.40 MHz. The broadcasts cannot be heard on a simple AM/FM radio receiver. (continued on page 5)



Real Estate

by Karen Radditz

Surf Pines homes and land update as follows: We are seeing encouraging movement in the North Coast real estate market. Although second home loans are still somewhat difficult to obtain, they are possible. If your home is not featured in this issue, it will be in the next issue. The following is for information purposes only:

There are 3 houses that have sold in the past 90 days:

89920 Ocean Dr sold for \$500,000, originally listed at \$619,000. On the market for 414 days.

90093 Ocean Dr sold for \$642,000, originally listed at \$799,000. On the market for 518 days.

89932 Manion Dr sold for \$292,000 originally listed for \$499,000. On the market for 522 days.

There are 2 houses Sale Pending:

89632 Sea Breeze Listed at \$750,000 originally, current listed price is \$400,000. Has been on the market for 695 days.

89543 Lakeside Court Listed at \$499,000 originally, current listed price is \$429,000. Has been on the market for 381 days.

There are 12 homes actively listed in Surf Pines:

89048 Ocean Dr New listing, \$825,000

Sophisticated Ocean front home.

89547 Ocean Dr Originally listed at \$825,000, now at \$679,000. A lovely home in a great location.

89187 Manion Dr Originally listed \$999,500, now at \$890,000. Great house with a separate garage and its own green house.

33102 Malarkey Originally listed at \$1,900,000 now at \$1,350,000. Home on over 2.45 acres, with an ocean view.

90031 Manion Dr Originally listed at \$649,000 now at \$415,000. 2.2 acres, Lake Front.

Vacant Land currently there are 8 active listings.

There has not been a vacant land sale in Surf Pines in the last year. Surf Pines Landing is the only Lake Front lot in Surf Pines, listed at \$385,000. Two lots with Ocean views on Manion, 3 Lots on Ocean Drive.

Budget Committee

It's that time again for the budget committee to form and work out details for next year's budget. The budget committee forms once a year and meets for 2 or 3 meetings to produce next year's budget for the Board to review before it is presented to the membership at the annual meeting. This is not a year-long commitment as you would find in our other committees. However, it is an opportunity to help your community and get to know the inner workings of our association. I need 3 volunteers who are non-Board members and who are not affiliated with other committees. If interested, you can call me, Gheri Fouts, at 738 6434

Plan to Attend the Annual Meeting

The next Annual Meeting of the Surf Pines Association, as announced by Michael Wilkins, President, is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the Astoria Golf and Country Club. Plan to attend.

Serve as a Director

The terms of two members of the Board of Directors, Michael Wilkin and Dave Lukens, expire this year. As president, Michael Wilkin will appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate members to fill the open positions on the board. If you have the time and the experience to contribute to the association by serving on the Board of Directors, then contact Dan Bartlett, Administrator, by July 15 to indicate an interest in being nominated. 503-791-8060, drbartlet@charter.net

Two members of the Board of Directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting on August 14 for three-year terms. Directors are responsible for the management, maintenance, and control of the assets of the association. The five directors serve as officers of the association: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and a director at large. Significantly, they are assisted in their work by an administrator.

Sunset Lake

Keep in mind that the speed limit on Sunset Lake is 10 miles per hour (no wake) as set by the State of Oregon. Please be sure all guests are aware of the rules for boating on Sunset Lake.

Surf Pines Directory

In the next Surf Pines directory you will be able to add an alternative/emergency contact number. If you would like to add a second number or make any other changes to your contact information please contact Bonnie Rogie by June 1st. (contact information for Bonnie can be found on page 8)

Annual Surf Pines Garage Sale

Saturday, July 3, will be the day for the great Surf Pines garage sale. It's time to start thinking about cleaning out that back bedroom closet, your basement, the garage and the attic. Don't forget your kids' rooms too. Recycle the old toys, music, books and clothes. Better yet, have them hold their own sale. Anyway, we just wanted to remind you that the sale was coming up and you can call Katie Weber 503-738-5986 to get on the list. It's never too late to sign up. The cost is nominal, approx. \$3.00, and the rewards are great. Come on and hold a sale in your garage or yard. Don't miss out on the fun.

Surf Pines 4th of July Picnic - Sunday

This year the Picnic will fall on Sunday, July 4th. We've had successful picnics on the 4th in prior years. Everyone gathers in the Surf Pines Park around 1 P.M. and has a great picnic lunch, conversations and games and still has plenty of time to get ready for the fireworks that night. So, plan on coming and joining in the festivities. We'll supply the hamburgers, hotdogs, soda and water. We'd like you to bring a dish to share, i.e.; salad, side dish or dessert and if you wish, your adult beverage of choice. Kids are always welcome (we need them to eat all the good food). If you have house guests down for the weekend, they are also invited to come and picnic with us.

Security Corner



by John and Carol Gates

Spring has sprung in Surf Pines and with it comes more traffic and more walkers on our roads and paths. Please, when you are driving abide by the 25 MPH speed limit. Also remember it is the responsibility of both the pedestrians and the drivers to be aware of what's going on around them. Be courteous, remember we are all neighbors.

I know I've said it before, but I think it's worth repeating, take a minute and check to be sure your house number strip is at the end of your driveway, facing the road. Emergency vehicles are having a hard time finding some addresses because they can't see the house numbers. Their response time is a little longer because of the speed bumps and this only adds to it. Also please remove any four digit numbers you may still have up on your mail boxes or house. They only add to the confusion.

The two major complaints I receive from Surf Pines members are:

1. Vehicle speed (residents and visitors): if you keep your speed at 25 MPH this helps to keep those driving behind you from going any faster.
2. Dogs: not on a leash or running loose and people not cleaning up after their pets. The solution to this lies with the owners. Do the right thing and Surf Pines will be a much happier community for all it's residents.

If you are looking for someone to remove down or dead trees give me a call. I can recommend someone that will do it for free, just for the wood. He does a good job and is very reliable.

With the warm weather more people are going on vacation. If you are going away send me an e-mail or call me and I will keep an eye on your property. It's also a good idea to let a neighbor know.



President's Comments

by Michael Wilkin, SPA President

The seasons march on, but this year Spring seems to be upon us earlier than ever!

A surprising number of people guide Surf Pines. There are five elected Directors and three standing committees, Roads and Grounds, Security and Community Relations, each of these committees have five to seven members. There are several sub-committees again each with five or so members. Each year we appoint a budget committee with at least three members not on other committees, also there is a nominating committee. This gives a total of 35 to 40 members that sit on committees. In addition there are many volunteers that turn out for work parties, volunteers for community parties and volunteers to make the annual meeting run smoothly.

This all leads to a never ending need to urge new members to step forward to keep the community running. Every year at the annual meeting we ask for those interested in joining committees to make themselves known, but before the annual meeting we actively seek members willing to stand for the Board of Directors. This year there are two seats up for election, my own and that of the Secretary Dave Lukens. If you have any interest in seeing how a small community operates please let me, any Board member, member of the nominating committee or the Administrator know.

But back to the weather.....Spring is a time of young animals that are even more unpredictable than the grown deer, squirrels, raccoons and rabbits that regularly surround us. Each year quite a few of our deer are hit by motor vehicles, along with some of our pets and other small animals. Please drive carefully on our roads and let a new generation of creatures mature.

While encouraging the animals, plants are now growing as well and some of these plants are less welcome. The open ground left after the storm two years ago has lead to a surge in Scotch Broom. It may look attractive with its bright yellow flowers but it is very aggressive and rapidly takes over if left unchecked. Now is a good time to remove the Scotch Broom plants, they can be easily spotted by their yellow flowers but their seed pods have not yet dried and burst open.

Even if you don't wish to join the Board or one of the committees, I still look forward to seeing you at a Board meeting or at the annual meeting; let us know how we are doing and what you think is important for the community.

Member's Comments

by Fred and Sherry Steinmetz

My wife and I would like to thank you and your committee members for your efforts in updating and improving the community bylaws. Our hope is that the new guidelines will provide the structure necessary to help those that may lack the gravitas to comprehend their obligation to appropriately maintain their property. We also hope that the guidelines will assist those that have been remiss in their efforts and embarrass the rest into action. Let's face it, some homes/property conditions have declined to the degree that one could make the case that their property resembles that of a teenager's unkempt bedroom.

Our hope is that the bylaws will now be enforced and our Surf Pines community will become one of the prime locations in the area.

Tsunami *(continued from page one)*

There are many receiver options ranging from handheld portable units which just pick up Weather Radio broadcasts, to desktop and console models which receive Weather Radio as well as other broadcasts. Contact any local electronic suppliers for information.

Get Prepared. If there is a distant tsunami such as the recent one off Chile, more than an hour is available for notification and action. The most dangerous situation will be if we experience a severe earthquake near our coast. After ducking and covering to protect yourself during the shaking, put your evacuation plan into action. Do not wait for an official warning. Realize that you may have 15 to 20 minutes to get to higher land. The County recommends getting to a height of at least 50 feet above sea level. In Surf Pines, Manion Drive meets that requirement. The further inland you travel away from the ocean and bays, the greater the safety. The closest County designated assembly area is near the County Animal Shelter and Oregon Youth Authority facilities off the Astoria Warrenton Highway. Keep in mind that in a severe earthquake, road travel may be disrupted and travel on foot will be the best option. You can download and print a helpful brochure at: www.oregongeology.com/sub/earthquakes/Coastal/tsubrochures/WarrentonEvac.pdf.

The American Red Cross in conjunction with The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has put together the following guidelines for creating a Disaster Kit:

- In putting an emergency or disaster kit together, there are six basics you should stock for your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and special items. If you have camping gear, you're already on your way to having an emergency kit.
- Also remember you don't have to put your kit together in one day. Set a timetable to have a complete kit over a 3-6 month period to lessen the one time cost and hassle of trying to gather everything at once.
- Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. Possible containers for a home kit include a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or a duffle bag. For a portable kit, use a daypack or duffle with shoulder strap. Keep an extra kit in your car.
- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supplies kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh. Replace your stored food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

To get copies of American Red Cross Community Disaster Education materials, contact your local Red Cross chapter.

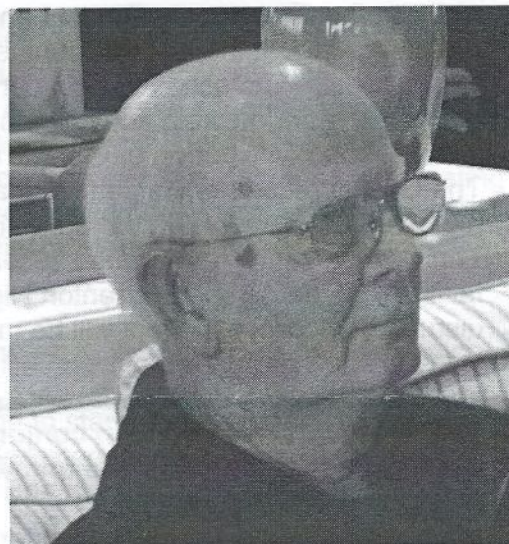
Community, Community, Community.....



Busy Volunteer is Down But Not Out

by Katie Webber

One of our volunteers was in the hospital recently but is now recovering at home. Gene Keever has been a long time volunteer for Surf Pines. Gene is an engineer by trade and one of his first projects for Surf Pines was engineering, supervising and ram-rodding the replacement of the culvert under Surf Pines Lane. The new culvert replaced an old broken cement culvert that was an original to the development of Surf Pines. Gene's next project was taking over the gate operation and repairs, of which there are many. He is still the computer whiz behind the never-ending, sometimes changing, gate codes too. Gene's work with the Board and John Gates helps in keeping our security gates in top working order. It's volunteers like Gene that keeps Surf Pines a great place to live. We give our many thanks to Gene for all his time and wish him a speedy recovery.





Birding Tips

by Debra Hall

Many Surf Pine residents, both full-time and part-time, are exuberant birders. There are an abundance of species in the Surf Pines area. Whether you are an amateur or serious birder, or merely enjoy the beauty of a new bird as it alights on your deck rail, attracting birds with an appealing bird seed will enhance your landscape and relaxation.

Different species of birds prefer different seeds, but the seeds that will help you attract the largest variety of birds is the black-oil sunflower. Sunflower seeds are the all-round favorite, specifically for tree-dwelling birds; some birds prefer different foods. Blackbirds like corn, whereas doves, and many ground-feeding birds, prefer millet or red milo. Many birders shop for mixed seed, which has the greatest variety, but can also leave waste. Experimenting with seed combinations will help you find what attracts the most birds to your backyard.



Sunflower Seeds: Black-oil sunflower seeds have a high meat-to-shell ratio and high fat content. They are thin-shelled, making it easy for smaller birds to handle. The familiar striped sunflower seeds that humans eat are larger, with thicker seed coats, making them more difficult for small birds to eat. Sunflower seeds are best offered in a hopper or platform feeder. Black-oil sunflower seeds will attract nuthatches, finches, grosbeaks, and chickadees to name a few.

Nyjer (thistle): Is a small black seed and favorite among all the songbirds; it is expensive and best offered in tube feeders especially designed for access by these small-billed birds. Nuisance birds like starlings and rock doves (pigeons) will swarm these feeders unless access is designed for the small-billed birds. Thistle will attract goldfinches, purple finches, siskins, and juncos.

Suet: Suet comes from the hard fat surrounding beef kidneys. Commercial suet cakes are produced from rendered suet, making it less prone to spoilage. Suet will attract woodpeckers and insect-eating birds like nuthatches, chickadees, and wrens. As an alternative, many birders offer peanut butter mixed with corn meal in the summer. Suet should be offered in the suet cages. To limit access to the suet by aggressive starlings try attaching it to the bottom of a platform feeder that is suspended from a branch. This requires the birds to feed upside down. Starlings, so abundant in the spring and summer in Surf Pines, cannot feed upside down, but woodpeckers, flickers, chickadees, and nuthatches feed upside-down easily.

Fruit and Fruit Seeds: Robins, thrushes, and waxwings prefer fruits, berries and seeds. Raisins, currants, apple cores, or seeds from melons and pumpkins attract these birds.

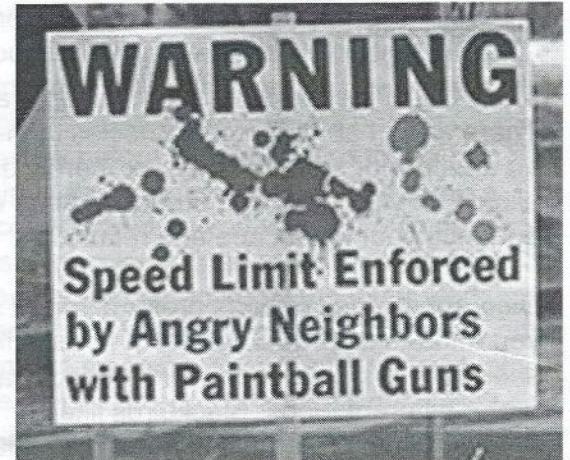
Established bird feeders will attract predator birds, who appreciate the 'abundance' of the seed-eating birds. The wild kingdom is unveiled daily along the east side of Manion Drive, as we are graced with the soaring of our huntress, the female Merlin Falcon, who takes advantage of those unaware birds. Those who are not keen to hear her "klee-klee-klee" as she soars will pay the unfortunate toll. In addition to predator birds who winter and summer in Surf Pines, bird feeders also attract unwanted opportunists. Other, less-desirables are raccoons that are especially attracted to the suet. Often with newborns in tow, they make their rounds in the spring and summer. It is suggested that you bring your feeders inside for a few nights should you encounter these bandits raiding your suet and seed.

For those new to birding, there are several guidebooks available on western birds. In addition, for those with iPhones, there is an interactive iBird Explorer (highly recommended by this writer) that offers support for identification with photos, range, and live recordings of birdsong. Happy birding!



Emergency Preparedness: Three Day Supply

- First Aid kit and reference guide
- Water- 1 gallon per person per day; drinking, hygiene, cooking
- Food- Packaged, canned, no-cook, as well as baby food and food for special diets
- Can opener
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Fire extinguisher- Standard
- Essential medications
- Money
- Food and water for pets
- Portable radio, NOAA weather radio, flashlights, and batteries
- Alternate cooking source and matches
- Heavy gloves and sturdy shoes
- Crescent wrench for utility shut-off (12" or longer)
- Family documents



Surf Pines Board of Directors

President	Michael Wilkin	89961 Manion Dr	861-0701	wilkin@ccalmr.ogi.edu
Vice-President	Burr Allegaert	89332 Manion Dr	738-7717	burr@theoregonshores.com
Treasurer	Gheri Fouts	89531 Shady Pines	738-6434	ghfouts@msn.com
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Director	Jeff Hall	89685 Manion Dr	739-0893	jlh434@mac.com
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Members are invited to contribute articles. Contact Jeff Hall at jlh434@mac.com.